

TELLING IT AS IT IS EX-CHIEF OF DRUG RING NOW TRIES TO TELL KIDS CRIME ISN'T WORTH IT

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Author: SUZANNE SIEGEL Free Press Staff Writer

If **Milton Jones** took out a personal ad, it might read like this: BM, 41, Aries, telemarketer, author. Likes fishing, chess tournaments, gambling, spending quiet time with family and friends.

A decade or so ago, it might have looked more like this: BM, CEO of a multimillion-dollar corporation, drug dealer, killer. Enjoys putting young people to work.

Milton (Butch) **Jones**, the former head of Young Boys Inc. -- a ruthless drug ring in Detroit best remembered for recruiting underage employees in school yards -- swears he's a changed man.

But he's been spotted peddling once again.

Books, that is.

The ex-convict, who once distributed Corvettes to his teenage drug lieutenants and now drives a 1985 Monte Carlo, has written an autobiography.

The man who helped spawn YBI, a \$350,000-a-week heroin and cocaine operation, now makes about \$300 a week supervising telemarketers selling long-distance service and says he has a story to tell.

"I'm keeping it raw. I'm keeping it real. It's not going to be sugarcoated," said **Jones**, who got out of jail in 1992 after serving 10 years on federal drug conspiracy and accessory to murder charges.

YBI, which started on a street corner on Detroit's west side in the late 1970s, later made inroads in Highland Park, Flint and Pontiac. Teenagers armed with bats, shotguns and automatic weapons pushed out their competitors. After a series of raids and indictments in the early 1980s, the organization that revolutionized the way drugs were dealt across the nation was shut down.

Police at the time blamed YBI for dozens of killings and shootings.

Jones, who is fond of saying "I used to go to bed with murder on my mind and wake up with murder on my mind," says his goal in penning "Y.B.I." is to make young people aware that is no way to live.

"I just want to let people know the fox is not worth the chase. The ends don't justify the means," said **Jones**, who lives in Detroit.

It will undoubtedly raise eyebrows that the man whose brainchild it was to use children to deal heroin and cocaine because they were too young to do real jail time is ready to preach to children once again.

"I'm speaking from experience," said the father of two. "I have information I want to share. It's just my way of putting back what I took."

In light of how many young people died and went to jail because of YBI, Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon said Sunday, "I don't think that group should receive any kind of respect or any patronage by people buying the book."

Jones apparently stopped by the police homicide offices last week on an unofficial book-signing tour. McKinnon said there is an investigation into whether **Jones** "was selling, giving away and autographing" the books in the station house. A YBI member was convicted of killing a police officer in 1982.

Jones ' blunt 213-page book chronicles his rise and fall. He started as a pistol-packing 14-year-old earning \$200 a week working security for a family member selling heroin for \$1 a pop.

Mid-career, **Jones** writes, he was a killer for hire, once sitting vigil in a garbage can all night until his unknowing trash-toting victim lifted the lid.

At the pinnacle, **Jones** was helping oversee 300 young street salesmen, driving a De Lorean, flying to Vegas on a whim and saving trash bags full of cash.

In 1983, after four months on the lam, he pleaded guilty to running a criminal enterprise.

The moral of the story?

"I underestimated the power of the U.S. government," **Jones** said. "They taught me what I needed to know -- you can't win."

"Y.B.I.," published by H. Publications, is available for \$11.95 at the Truth Bookstore in Southfield's Northland mall and at other locations. THEN: **Milton** (Butch) **Jones** , shown years ago outside Detroit's Jeffries housing project, where Young Boys Inc. recruited underage employees into a \$350,000- a-week heroin and cocaine operation. **Jones** served 10 years in prison. Now he's written an autobiography, he says, to tell young people that crime is not worth it.

NOW: "I just want to let people know the fox is not worth the chase," said **Milton Jones** , who has written a book about his life as leader of Young Boys Inc.

Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press

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